

Atty. Docket No.: 108930-010101

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Application of: Ronald M. Stria           | Examiner: Chambers, Troy |
| Serial No.: 10/713,127                    |                          |
| Filed: November 14, 2003                  | Group Art Unit: 3641     |
| Titled: Multi-Purpose Pyrotechnic Trainer | Conf. No.: 9597          |

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any papers attached hereto, are being sent by way of the PTO Electronic Filing System Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 24, 2008.

Mary J. Whelan

Name of Person Mailing Paper

*Mary J. Whelan* 1-24-08

Signature of Person Mailing Paper

WITHDRAWAL OF APPEAL

CHIEF CLERK of the BOARD  
Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This letter is to inform you that Applicant is requesting to withdraw the above-identified patent application from appeal and to reopen prosecution. Applicant is also submitting herewith a copy of a Request for Continued Examination that was filed with the USPTO on January 23, 2008, accompanied by the RCE fee and an Amendment responsive to the final Office Action in this application.

Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Withdrawal Of Appeal. However, if there are any fees due, including extension and petition fees, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501561.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 24, 2008

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**Request  
for  
Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal**Address to:  
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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/713,127        |
| Filing Date            | November 14, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor   | Ronald M. Stria   |
| Art Unit               | 3641              |
| Examiner Name          | Troy Chambers     |
| Attorney Docket Number | 108930-010101     |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Certificate of Electronic Filing; copy of filed Other Withdrawal of Appeal
2. **Miscellaneous**
- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 501561. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.
- a. ☒ ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED |                              |                  |          |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Signature   | <i>Ralph W. Selitto, Jr.</i> | Date             | 01-23-08 |
| Name (Print/Type)                                   | Ralph W. Selitto, Jr.        | Registration No. | 26,996   |

| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION   |                      |                         |          |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below. |                      |                         |          |
| Signature  | <i>Mary V. Hagan</i> | Date                    | 1-23-08  |
| Name (Print/Type)  | Mary V. Hagan        | Filed electronically on | 01-23-08 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Application of: Ronald M. Stria  
Serial No.: 10/713,127  
Filed: November 14, 2003  
Titled: Multi-Purpose Pyrotechnic Trainer

Examiner: Chambers, Troy  
Group Art Unit: 3641  
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Mary J. Whelan

Name of Person Mailing Paper

*Mary J. Whelan*

Signature of Person Mailing Paper

**AMENDMENT IN CONNECTION WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is filed concurrently with a Request For Continued Examination in connection with the above-identified patent application. In response to the final Office Action mailed July 25, 2006 and in view of the Examiner's Answer mailed June 22, 2007, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

4. (Currently Amended) A pyrotechnic device for simulating explosions, weapons firing and/or hit indications ~~comprised of~~ comprising:

a magazine having a plurality of receptacles for receiving a plurality of ~~corresponding~~ blank ammunition rounds; and

a top plate having a plurality of peripheral conductive discs located thereon and corresponding in number to the plurality of receptacles[[: wherein]], the peripheral conductive discs being made of conductive rubber and the magazine [[can be]] being placed on the top plate such that each of the plurality of receptacles is located over a corresponding one of the plurality of peripheral conductive discs, [[: and]] wherein each [[of the plurality of]] blank ammunition round[[s]] can be placed in a corresponding one of the plurality of receptacles [[so]] such that [[a first contact of each of the plurality of blank ammunition rounds]] it is in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of peripheral conductive discs.

5. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device of claim 4 wherein the top plate further includes a plurality of center conductive disc pads, each of which is located at a center of a corresponding one of the plurality of peripheral conductive discs and is separated therefrom by electrical insulation, corresponding to the plurality of peripheral conductive discs and wherein each center conductive disc pad is located at the center of the plurality of peripheral conductive discs; wherein there is electrical insulation between each of the plurality of center conductive disc pads and a corresponding one of the plurality of peripheral conductive discs; and wherein each [[of the plurality of]] blank ammunition round[[s]] can be placed in a corresponding one of the plurality of receptacles [[so]] such that [[a second contact of each of the plurality of blank ammunition rounds]] it is in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of center conductive disc pads and with a [[while the first contact of the respective blank ammunition round is in ohmic contact with the]] corresponding one of the plurality of peripheral conductive discs.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device of claim 5 further comprising:

an electronic housing[[:and]], wherein each of the plurality of center conductive disc pads is in ohmic contact with one of a plurality of conductive transfer posts that run through the top plate and into

the electronic housing.[]; and wherein each of the plurality of conductive transfer posts runs through the top plate and into the electronic housing.[]

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The pyrotechnic device of claim 8 further comprising~~ A pyrotechnic device for simulating explosions, weapons firing and/or hit indications comprising:

a top plate having a plurality of conductive disc pads, wherein each of the conductive disc pads includes a peripheral conductive disc pad, a center conductive disc pad, and electrical insulation therebetween, whereby there are a plurality of peripheral conductive disc pads and a plurality of center conductive disc pads;

a magazine having a plurality of receptacles for receiving a plurality of blank ammunition rounds, the magazine being placed on the top plate such that each of the plurality of receptacles is located over a corresponding one of the plurality of conductive disc pads, wherein each blank ammunition round can be placed in a corresponding one of the plurality of receptacles such that it is in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of peripheral conductive disc pads and with a corresponding one of the plurality of center conductive disc pads;

an electronic housing, wherein each of the plurality of center conductive disc pads is in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of a plurality of conductive transfer posts that run through the top plate and into the electronic housing;

an interface circuit board[[]], wherein each of the plurality of conductive transfer posts is in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of a corresponding plurality of bridge springs,; and wherein each of the plurality of bridge springs is ohmically in ohmic contact with an exposed area on the interface circuit board; and

wherein a central processing unit which is housed in the electronic housing, wherein the central processing unit can selectively fire [[any one of the corresponding plurality of]] a blank ammunition round[[s]] located in any one of the plurality of receptacles.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device ~~as claimed in of~~ [[C]]claim 4 further comprising: an electronic housing ~~comprised of~~ having circuitry[[:]], wherein the circuitry provides for self-testing.
14. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device ~~as claimed in of~~ [[C]]claim 4 further comprising: an electronic housing ~~comprised of~~ having circuitry[[:]], wherein the circuitry provides the capability of fifteen programmable firing sequences and igniting at least one [[or more of the plurality of]] blank ammunition round[[s]].
15. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device ~~as claimed in of~~ [[C]]claim 4 further comprising: an electronic housing ~~comprised of~~ having circuitry, wherein the circuitry can perform a special ignition application.
16. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device of claim 15 wherein the special ignition application is an anti-personnel application.
21. (Currently Amended) A pyrotechnic device for simulating explosions, weapons firing and/or hit indications[[.]] comprising:
- a magazine ~~comprised of~~ having a plurality of receptacles for receiving a ~~corresponding~~ plurality of rounds, ~~the magazine having an underside surface~~, wherein a plurality of safety interlocks [[are]] is located on the an underside surface of the magazine; and
- a top plate having a top surface on which [[are]] is located a plurality of contact pads which correspond in number to the plurality of safety interlocks[[:]], wherein the magazine can be placed on top of the top plate so that the underside surface of the magazine lies on top of the top surface of the top plate and each of the plurality of safety interlocks on the magazine comes in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of contact pads on the top plate[[:]],
- [[and]]wherein the pyrotechnic device does not arm when power is applied unless each of the plurality of safety interlocks on the magazine is in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of contact pads on the top plate.
22. (Previously Presented) The pyrotechnic device of claim 21 further comprising a latching device which latches the magazine to the top plate, wherein the latching device causes each of the plurality of safety interlocks on the magazine to come in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of contact pads on the top plate.

23. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device of claim 21[[:]] further comprising an electronic housing including circuitry[[:]], wherein the circuitry is located on a circuit board, and the circuitry comes in ohmic contact with the plurality of contact pads on the top plate.
24. (Currently Amended) The pyrotechnic device of claim 23[[:]] wherein a remote control signal can be used to operate the circuitry and thereby operate the pyrotechnic device.
29. (Currently Amended) ~~The pyrotechnic device of claim 8 further comprising~~

~~a plurality of non-conductive washers, each of which is placed around one of the plurality of transfer posts, wherein there is at least one non-conductive washer for each of the plurality of transfer posts; wherein there are a plurality of bored holes in the electronic housing; wherein each transfer post lies at least partially inside of one of the plurality of bored holes in the electronic housing, wherein there is one transfer post for each bored hole; and wherein each of the plurality of non-conductive washers forms a seal between the top plate and the electronic housing so that no liquid can enter the electronic housing through any of the plurality of bored holes.~~

A pyrotechnic device for simulating explosions, weapons firing and/or hit indications comprising:

a top plate having a plurality of conductive disc pads, wherein each of the conductive disc pads includes a peripheral conductive disc pad, a center conductive disc pad, and electrical insulation therebetween, whereby there are a plurality of peripheral conductive disc pads and a plurality of center conductive disc pads;

a magazine having a plurality of receptacles for receiving a plurality of blank ammunition rounds, the magazine being placed on the top plate such that each of the plurality of receptacles is located over a corresponding one of the plurality of conductive disc pads, wherein each blank ammunition round can be placed in a corresponding one of the plurality of receptacles such that it is in ohmic contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of peripheral conductive disc pads and with a corresponding one of the plurality of center conductive disc pads; and

an electronic housing having a plurality of bored holes, each of the plurality of bored holes able to accept at least a portion of a plurality of conductive transfer posts that run through the top plate and into the electronic housing, wherein at least one non-conductive washer is placed around each of the plurality of conductive transfer posts for forming a seal between the top plate and the electronic housing so that no liquid can enter the electronic housing through any of the plurality of bored holes and wherein each of the plurality of center conductive disc pads is in ohmic

contact with a corresponding one of the plurality of conductive transfer posts.

30. (Previously Presented) The pyrotechnic device of claim 29 wherein each of the plurality of non-conductive washers is a neoprene washer.



Remarks

This Amendment is being filed in response to the final Office Action mailed on July 25, 2006, in which claims 4-16, 21-24, 29 and 30 were rejected. This Amendment is also being filed after receipt of the Examiner's Answer mailed on June 22, 2007 in which claims 21-24 were allowed, and claims 9, 10, 29 and 30 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. With this Amendment, claims 6-7 and 10-12 have been cancelled and claims 4-5, 8-9, 13-16, 21, 23-24 and 29 have been amended. Claims 21 and 23-24 of allowed claims 21-24 have been amended for editorial purposes only, and are therefore still believed to be in condition for allowance. No new matter is added as a result of this amendment.

With this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 4 to include the features recited in previously presented claim 10. Applicant has also amended claim 9 to include all of the features recited in previously presented claims 4, 5, 8 and 9. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 29 to include all of the features recited in previously presented claims 4, 5, 8 and 29. Applicant has also amended the preamble of independent claims 4, 9, 21 and 29 to recite "A pyrotechnic device for simulating explosions, weapons firing and/or hit indications." Support for this amendment is found throughout Applicant's as-filed specification, specifically at page 17, lines 19-24 and page 18, lines 10-22. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 4, 9 and 29 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Since claims 5, 8-9, 13-16 and 30 depend from amended independent claims 4 and 29, respectively, these dependent claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

As a result of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the aforementioned prior art rejections contained in the final Office Action have been obviated. In such circumstances, the prior art rejections are not further discussed herein.

In the view of the foregoing amendments and the accompanying remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 4-5, 8-9, 13-16, 21-24, and 29-30. If such action cannot be taken, or if the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned.

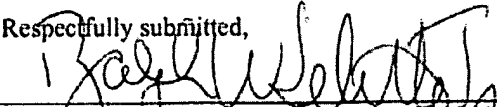
Applicant is also submitting herewith a copy of a Withdrawal of Appeal letter that has been addressed to the Chief Clerk of the Board and filed with the USPTO today.

No fees are believed to be due as a result of this Amendment. If there are any fees due as a result of this Amendment, including extension and petition fees, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501561.

Serial No. 10/713,127  
Page 8

Date: January 23, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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